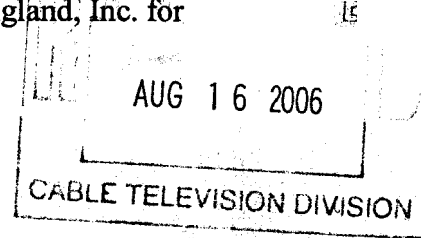


Oral Testimony given at hearing CTV 06-1 Petition by Verizon New England, Inc. for  
Adoption of Competitive License Regulation, August 16, 2006



I am Jeanne Krieger, Chair of the Board of Selectmen of Lexington and the liaison to our Communications Advisory Committee. During my three terms as Selectman, I have been involved in at least five cable licensing negotiations. I speak in opposition to the proposed petition. I can speak from first hand experience that a cable licensing negotiation cannot be completed in 90 days as the petitioner requests. Cable licensing is complex. Time is required for public input and review, as well negotiations of long-term contracts. Ninety days is just not enough time.

From my perspective, the current regulations work just fine. Lexington has been successful in their licensing agreement with both RCN and Comcast. The licensing processes were completed in a timely manner.

In their petition Verizon fails to consider the advantages to the community of negotiations. The Communication Advisory Committee and Selectmen of Lexington have successfully represented the interests of our residents by assuring continued, optimal service throughout the Town and by providing added benefits including production of local cable events such as our annual Town Meetings, training of residents in producing their own shows, purchase of capital equipment for video production as well as Internet bandwidth for Town administration, schools and library. Each vendor we have negotiated with so far has agreed to level playing field conditions.

I take exception to Verizon's claim that Lexington is slowing the licensing process. We have offered to grant Verizon a license on the same conditions as our two other vendors. Verizon has refused insisting on their own license format and their own interpretation of level playing field.

In summary, from a participant in the process and a municipal elected official, the licensing system works well to protect the rights of our residents. Lexington objects to Verizon's attempts to avoid negotiating a fair license by trying to change the rules of engagement.